



Amtrak California
A partnership of Caltrans and Amtrak

Making Tracks

Vol. 10, No. 2 Summer 2000

Amtrak Tour to Centennial Garden

Amtrak California, Bakersfield's Centennial Garden and Convention Center and Holiday Inn Select have put together a travel package that makes travel to an event at the Garden convenient and cost effective. The package includes roundtrip train travel from any California destination, tickets to your selected event at Centennial Garden and overnight accommodations at Holiday Inn Select. Point of departure and event will determine the rate. The Amtrak Station, hotel and Garden are all within easy walking distance of each other.

The 10,149 seat, state-of-the-art arena and convention facility has hosted many well-known entertainers including Elton John, Neil Diamond, world famous ice skaters and the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. It is home for the West Coast Hockey League's Bakersfield Condors and California State University's Men's Basketball Team.

For information on the package call the Centennial Garden & Convention Center at 661/852-7309 or visit www.cntennialgarden.com. For Amtrak California fares and schedules call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit www.amtrak.com.



The New Bakersfield Station: It's Magnificent!

A Fourth of July crowd of more than 2,000 people were there to inspect the beautiful facilities at Bakersfield's new Amtrak Station, attend official Opening Ceremonies and inspect a modern *San Joaquin* train.

Located just south of Truxtun Avenue at "S" Street, the new station began full operation on July 4 as the southern terminus of the *San Joaquins*. The station is served by ten daily passenger trains (between 4:55 a.m. and 11:56 p.m.) which provide

service through the Central Valley to and from the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area and to and from Sacramento. And the station is a center for Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches, which take passengers to and from Los Angeles and other Southern California destinations.

An 8,000-square-foot station building houses Amtrak's ticket office, passenger waiting area and baggage handling facilities. There is an 800-foot-

continued on back



State of California
Gray Davis, Governor

Business, Transportation
& Housing Agency
Maria Contreras-Sweet,
Secretary

Department of Transportation
Jeff Morales, Director

Making Tracks

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1185
Sacramento, CA

Address your comments to: Marketing, Caltrans Rail Program, MS-74, Box 942874, Sacramento, CA 94274-0001



Back to San Clemente

The Amtrak Station at San Clemente's Municipal Pier has been completely rehabilitated and there are now two northbound and two southbound *Pacific Surfliner* trains stopping at the popular ocean side facility.

Visitors to the
San Clemente Ocean
Festival enjoy a
relaxing trip to and
from the "Greatest
Show on Surf" aboard
Amtrak California's
Pacific Surfliner.

Northbound trains depart San Clemente at 10:38 a.m. and 4:12 p.m. for stops in Orange County and Los Angeles. The 4:12 p.m. departure continues from Los Angeles through the San Fernando Valley to Santa Barbara on weekdays only. Daily southbound trains depart San Clemente at 9:58 a.m. and 3:25 p.m. for Oceanside, Solana Beach and San Diego. One morning and one afternoon train in each direction means travelers from both north and south of San Clemente can enjoy a relaxing train trip for a day of sun and fun at the beach and wharf.

Improvements to the station include a reinforced passenger platform, a new boarding platform for passengers with disabilities, a brick pathway between the passenger platform and the adjoining street, and new signage directing passengers and visitors to the station.

Along the San Joaquin Corridor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Cal Expo, Sacramento Aug. 18 - Sept. 4

Each day during the running of the California State Fair in Sacramento, there will be direct service for *San Joaquin* passengers to and from Cal Expo.

Take *San Joaquin* train #711 to Stockton, transfer to the Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach

for Sacramento, where another motorcoach will take fair-goers directly to the Cal Expo Main Gate, arriving at 10:20 a.m. The return motorcoach leaves Cal Expo at 5:45 p.m. A motorcoach departure from the Sacramento Amtrak Station is at 6:30 p.m. to connect with southbound *San Joaquin* train #718 in Stockton. For more information, check the web site: www.calexpo.com

Wasco Festival of Roses

Sept. 9-10 There are two days of fun, food and entertainment as Wasco celebrates its most important product. (This year's featured rose is called "Barbra Streisand.") The Rose Queen Pageant and Evening of Wine and Roses are featured events. There is a parade, art show, carnival with rides for children and adults, 5K and 10K run, golf, basketball and tennis tournaments, and a car show. When you visit, don't miss the museum and the rose field tour. The festival is at Barker Park, about a 12-15 block walk from the train station.

California Admission Day Festival, Sacramento | Sept. 8-10

California will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Admission to the United States with a three-day Festival on Capitol Mall, from 5th to 10th Streets. The event will include many historic exhibits, shows and events. Admission is free. Check the web site: www.calad2k.org.

Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fair

Sept. 14-17 A full schedule of activities awaits visitors. There is continuous entertainment, a downtown parade, wine tasting, carnival rides, petting zoo and puppets for the kids, and every day there is a grape stomp. Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches from *San Joaquin* trains in Stockton stop at the Lodi Transit Center, with easy access to the Festival.

Kern County Fair, Bakersfield

Sept. 20-Oct. 1 The Fair opens with an evening parade, then there is a lineup of shows, entertainers, carnivals and special events. See a livestock auction, rodeo and truck and tractor pull. The fairgrounds are at 1142 South P Street, about 1 mile from the train station. Take city bus or taxi.

Corcoran Cotton Festival | Oct. 7

There will be a parade and daylong festival as Corcoran celebrates its magnificent cotton crop for the year 2000.



Take the Train to the Track

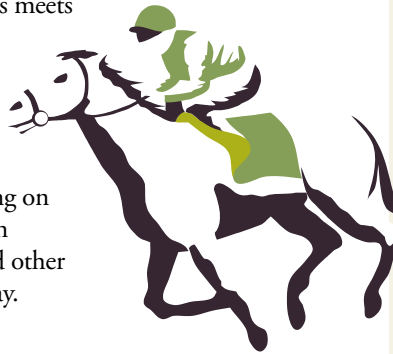


Going to the races at Del Mar this summer? The best way to get there is on the train!

Amtrak California offers 11 daily roundtrip Pacific Surfliner trains southbound from Los Angeles and Orange County and 11 daily roundtrip trains northbound from San Diego. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, a 12th roundtrip train is added from both directions for the duration of the race season only.

Race fans take the train to Solana Beach, where a double-decker Del Mar Racetrack bus takes passengers between the station and the track. The bus meets every train during race hours and takes passengers back to the station for their return trip home.

The Del Mar race season runs through September 13. Gates open at 12 noon and the first race is at 2:00 p.m. The last race starts at approximately 5:30 p.m. On Fridays, the first race begins at 4:00 p.m. and there is no racing on Tuesdays. Concerts by popular rock bands follow racing on Friday evenings, and there are pony rides, face painters and other activities for children on Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day.



Private At-Grade Crossing Closed

A railroad-bridge and underpass has been built on private farmland property near Stockton to eliminate an at-grade crossing and

create safe crossing of railroad tracks for agricultural workers.

The grade separation is part of a State of California demonstration project to show the cost of building a railroad-bridge and underpass is a

viable alternative to installing and maintaining crossing gates and signal lights at private crossings. It's an excellent example of a public agency (California Department of Transportation) working with private enterprise (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the property owners Triple E Produce) to bring about positive results. Funds for the underpass came from Caltrans through a federal grant under ISTEA Section 1010. BNSF Railway constructed the railroad-bridge and Triple E Produce excavated and paved the roadway.

Many public and private crossings will be closed and grade crossing signals will be improved to protect drivers.

State and local agencies, and private land owners along the *San Joaquin* rail corridor are working to close many public and private crossings and to make substantial improvements to grade crossing signals to protect drivers. Already two public and 15 private crossings have been closed and many others have undergone substantial signal improvement work.

In California, there are more than 4,800 railroad at-grade crossings on private property and more than 7,900 public grade crossings. In 1999, collisions resulted in 24 fatalities and 73 injuries.

"We are pleased that this railroad-bridge and underpass have been built and we have closed the grade crossing in this area of the farm," said Tom Guido, General Manager, Triple E Produce. "In the past five years, we have had two accidents, one fatal, at this grade crossing. The new underpass will prevent a repeat of those tragic events."

N T S

Renaissance Faire, Hanford Sept. 30-Oct. 1

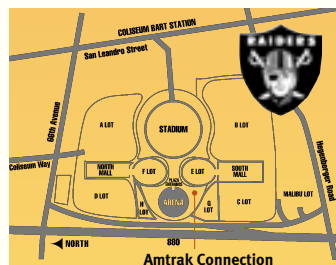
King Henry VIII and Queen Jane hold court in Civic Center Park (a short walk from the Hanford Amtrak Station.) More than 600 costumed entertainers take on the role of 16th Century citizens with jousting knights, belly dancers, fortunetellers and beggars.

Riverbank Wine and Cheese Exposition | Oct. 14-15

You can sample 15-to-20 types of cheese and a dozen varieties of wine. There are 350 booths with arts and crafts and other interesting items, a car show and continuous musical entertainment. Take the *San Joaquin* train to the Modesto Amtrak Station. A special bus will be standing by to take you to and from the event in downtown Riverbank.

Oakland Raiders 2000 Schedule

Going to a Raider game this fall? Take *San Joaquin* train #711 to the Oakland Amtrak Station, arriving at 11:05 a.m., and a special Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach will take you to the Oakland Coliseum. After the game, the Motorcoach will board passengers at the same location as drop-off (see map) for the return train ride (*San Joaquin* #718). The shuttle is available only for Sunday day games (see schedule below) and a reservation is required at 1-800-USA-RAIL.



September 3	San Diego
September 17	Denver
September 24	Cleveland
October 22	Seattle
November 5	Kansas City
November 26	Atlanta
December 24	Carolina





Hemet, Moreno Valley, and Perris Connect with Amtrak Trains

Hemet Mayor Lori Van Arsdale cuts the ribbon welcoming Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach service to the Simpson Center. With her are City Council Members Marge Tandy and Roger Meadows, City Manager Steve Temple and Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Nancy Patton and Cindy Jordan.

Cutting the ribbon in front of the Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach in Moreno Valley is Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Flickinger with Steve Miller, Caltrans Rail Program, and Kathy Sanders, Amtrak West. The Moreno Valley Motorcoach stop is located at AM/PM Mini Mart, 2624 Alessandro Blvd.



As the Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach pulled into the stop at the Best Western Perris Inn, city officials were ready to welcome it. Left to right are City Council Member Cecilia Larios, City Manager Ron Molendyk, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Yarbrough, Mayor Daryl Busch, City Clerk Margaret Rey, and Kathy Sanders, Amtrak West.

New Bakersfield Station

continued from front

long sheltered platform, parking for 200 automobiles in a lighted lot, bicycle storage facilities, and the bus plaza can accommodate as many as 15 Amtrak motorcoaches and local buses at one time.

(clockwise, from right)
San Joaquin train arrives at station breaking through paper banner.

Passengers line the platform awaiting arrival of *San Joaquin* train at new station.

Passenger ticketing office.

Senator Jim Costa presents congratulatory certificate to Mayor Bob Price.

The program included remarks by Mayor Bob Price; Council Member Pat DeMond; State Senator Jim Costa; Warren Weber, Manager of the Caltrans Rail Program; Richard Phelps, COO of Amtrak West; and Joe Colombo, of Colombo Construction Company. Bakersfield's own Buck Owens sang on the program, the Good Fortune Barbershop Quartet entertained, and radio station KUZZ broadcast live from the station.

